GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4181
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2005
PRIVATE PARTICIPATION IN SAND MINERAL MINING
Bellarmin Shri A.V.;Manoj Dr. K.S.;Surendran Shri Chengara

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for mineral/sand mining along the Sea Coast of Alazuppuzha from the Government of Kerala is pending sanction before the Union Government;

(b) if so, the time by when the proposal is likely to get approval from the Government;

(c) whether the Government is also aware of the mineral deposits along the coast line in Tamil Nadu, particularly in Kanyakumari District;

(d) if so, the steps taken to extract these minerals;

(e) whether the Government proposes to involve private parties in the said sand/mineral mining;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by when the said mining work is likely to star

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER`S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):
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(a) Yes Sir. Six proposals received from Government of Kerala on 09/03/2005 for grant of mining lease of beach sand in different Survey Nos. of village Arattupuzha, District Alappuzha are pending before the Central Government for prior approval.

(b) The proposals are under consideration of the Ministry of Mines and shall be disposed of in accordance with Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder. However, no precise time limit for disposal of these proposals can be specified.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Private entepreneurs were mining Garnet along the beaches, till the Government of India, Department of Atomic Energy announced a Beach Sand Mineral Policy on 6.10.1998 providing for a guided opening of the entire beach sand mineral sector to private parties for mining even the prescribed substances like Ilmenite, Rutile and Zircon. Till the Policy was announced, only Public Sector Undertakings were permitted to mine Ilmenite, Rutile and Zircon.

(e) Yes Sir.

(f) Private entrepreneurs like M/s. V.V. Minerals, M/s. Beach Minierals (Sands) Company and M/s. Beach Minerals Company Pvt. Ltd. are engaged in beach sand mining.

(g) Mining activities is already going on along the coast line in Tamil Nadu.